GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5706
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2001
ERADICATION OF POVERTY AND ILLITERACY
DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SC and ST welfare programmes of the Union Government are not fully percolating down to the target group;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that those SCs and STs who are ignorant about their rights and welfare programmes of the Government continuously remain ignorant of them;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to create awareness among SCs/STs in this regard by the Union Government;

(e) the literacy rate of SCs as against the national average as per the latest Census, State-wise; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the literacy rate among SCs?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) to (d) Welfare programmes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes funded by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are implemented through the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned as well as Non-Government Organisations. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment & the Ministry of Tribal Affairs have taken several steps, including steps for making the target group aware about the programmes so as to ensure that the benefits of the schemes/programmes reach the target groups. Details in respect of the schemes/programmes implemented by the Ministry have also been indicated in the Annual Report of the Ministries for 1999-2000, which have been laid in the Parliament and are also given in the website of the Ministries. Details of steps taken by the Ministry for implementation of the schemes in a proper manner is given at Annexure-I.

(e) A statement showing the Statewise literacy rate of SCs as against the national average as per the 1991 Census, is enclosed at Annexure-II.

(f) Pursuant to the National Policy on Education, special provisions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, detailed at Annexure-III, have been incorporated in the existing scheme of the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Annexure I

Annexure referred to part (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.5706 to be answered on 25.4.2001 by Shri Ramanaidu Daggubati regarding `Eradication of Poverty and Illiteracy `

With a view to ensure utilisation of the amount provided for implementation of various schemes/programmes for welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in a proper manner, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs are taking the following steps:

(i) Release of funds to States/UTs is made on the basis of a detailed examination of the proposals received.

(ii) Utilisation Certificates are insisted upon in respect of past releases before fresh releases are made,

(iii) Periodic progress reports are obtained from the States/UTs, showing the progress of implementation of schemes, the beneficiaries covered and other relevant information/data

(iv) Senior officers from the Ministries visit the States/UTs to assess the progress of implementation of schemes,

(v) Meetings with State Secretaries in charge of the subject are convened to ascertain the progress of implementation of schemes,

(vi) In the case of schemes implemented through Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs), funds are released after obtaining the recommendations of the State Governments/UTs and after an assessment of the standing of the NGO, past performance, etc. Apart from periodic progress reports, the NGOs are required to furnish Annual accounts and audited reports and Utilisation Certificates on the basis of which further release of funds are made. Inspection of NGOs is also undertaken through State Government/UT officials, and other authorities and also by Central government officers.

(vii) Due publicity of the plans/programmes are being arranged through All India Radio, Television, hoardings, newspaper releases etc. for creating awareness about the programmes among the target groups.

ANNEXTURE - II

Annexure referred to part (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.5706 to be answered on 25.4.2001 by Shri Ramanaidu Daggubati regarding `Eradication of Poverty and Illiteracy ` showing Literacy rates for Total & Scheduled Castespopulation as per Census - 1991

Sl. No.	India, State/UTs	Total Population (%age)	SC population (%age)
	INDIA + STATES	52.21	37.41
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44.09	31.59
2	Arunachal Pradesh	41.59	57.27
3	Assam	52.89	53.94
4	Bihar	38.48	19.49
5	Goa	75.51	58.73
6	Gujarat	61.29	61.07
7	Haryana	55.85	39.22
8	Himachal Pradesh	63.86	53.20
9	Karnataka	56.04	38.06
10	Kerala	89.81	79.66
11	Madhya Pradesh	44.20	35.08
12	Maharashtra	64.87	56.46
13	Manipur	59.89	56.44
14	Meghalaya	49.10	44.27
15	Mizoram	82.27	77.92
16	Nagaland	61.65	0.00
17	Orrisa	49.09	36.73
18	Punjab	58.51	41.09
19	Rajasthan	38.55	26.29
20	Sikkim	56.94	51.03
21	Tamil Nadu	62.66	46.74
22	Tripura	60.44	56.66
23	Uttar Pradesh	41.60	26.85
24	West Bengal	57.70	42.21
	UNION TERRITORIES		
1.	Andaman & N Islands	73.02	0.00
2	Chandigarh	77.81	55.44
3	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	40.71	77.64
4	Daman and Diu	71.20	79.18
5	Delhi	75.29	57.60
6	Lakshadweep	81.78	0.00
7	Pondicherry	74.74	56.26

+ Excludes figures of Jammu & Kashmir where 1991 census was not taken.

Annexure III

Annexure referred to part (f) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.5706 to be answered on 25.4.2001 by Shri Ramanaidu Daggubati regarding `Eradication of Poverty and Illiteracy `

Pursuant to the National Policy on Education,following special provisions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, have been incorporated in the existing scheme of the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development:

i. Relaxed norms for opening of primary schools;

ii. A primary school within one kilometre walking distance from habitations of 200 people instead of habitations of 300 people;

iii. Abolition of tuition fee in government schools, in all the States, at least up to upper primary level. Most of the States have abolished

tuition fee for SC/ST students up to senior secondary level;

iv. Provision of incentives like free text books, uniforms, school bags, etc. to these students;

v. The major programmes of the Department of Education, namely, universalisation of Elementary Education, Operation Blackboard, Non-formal Education, District Primary Education Programme etc. accord priority to areas of concentration of SCs and STs. Lok Jumbish and Shiksha Karmi projects, which are community based basic education projects, have a specific focus on remote and backward areas;

vi. Reservation of seats of SCs and STs in Central Government Institutions of higher education including IITs, Regional Engineering Colleges, Central Universities, Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas, etc. In Universities, colleges and technical institutions, apart from reservation, there is also relaxation in the minimum qualifying marks for admission for SC/ST candidates. The UGC has established SC/ST cells in 98 universities including Central Universities to ensure proper implementation of the reservation policy. A Standing Committee has also been set up by the UGC to review implementation of the reservation policy;

vii. To improve academic skills and linguistic proficiency of students in various subjects and raise their level of comprehension, remedial and special coaching is provided for SC/ST students. IITs have a scheme under which SC/ST studentswho marginally fail in the entrance examination are provided one year training and then admitted to the first year of the B. Tech. Course;

viii. Junior Research Fellowships (50 annually), Scholarships(25), Research Associateship(20), Fellowships(50) are awarded by UGC exclusively to SC/ST students;

ix. The Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore prepares text books, primers, grammar books, dictionaries and bilingual text books, facilitating translation from regional languages into tribal languages. CIIL has worked in 75 tribal and border languages;

x. The NCERT published ten text books in tribal dialects and teaching/learning material in 15 tribal dialects;

xi. SC candidates are provided relaxation up to 10 per cent of cut off marks for the Junior Research Fellowship(JRF) test and all the SC and ST candidates qualifying for the JRF are awarded fellowships;

xii. Fifty Junior Fellowships are awarded every year in Science and Humanities including Social Sciences to SC/ST candidates who appear in National Eligibility Test(NET) of UGC and qualify the eligibility test for lecturership;

xiii. The University Grants Commission provides relaxation of 5 per cent from 55 per cent to 50 per cent, at the master`s level for appointment as lecturer to SC/ST candidates. The Commission has also reduced minimum percentage ofmarks required for appearing in the NET examination to 50 per cent at master`s level for SCs/STs.

xiv. An inter-ministerial working group has been constituted to draw up a ten year perspective plan aimed at the educational development of SCs and STs and to bring them at par with the other communities;

xv. One hundred and forty-six districts have been identified as low female literacy districts to be give focused attention by Centre as well as States/Union Territories for implementation of Programmes/Schemes. Allocation of Rs.767.51 crore and Rs.376.47 crore has been made under the Special Component Plan andTribal Sub-Plan for SCs and STs, respectively. This accounts for 16.33 per cent and 8.01 per cent of the total outlay.